

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell (1876) My dear Mrs. Bell:

I presume Alec has told you about his lecture in Salem, still I think you will not object hearing another account of it. It certainly was a great success, the hall, not very large though, was as full as it could hold, aisles and stairways were occupied and men stood in the doorways. There was some trouble at first, and the lecture announced to begin at half past seven had not commenced at quarter to eight. Mrs. Saunders heard some one remark contemptuously "Oh telephony and blue glass will go the same way" but Alec appeared at last, and from thence the people were most attentive and apparently most interested. Alec looked very well and bright he had got over his headache. After the lecture at least a quarter of the people crowded around the platform, and some ladies even spoke into the telephones. Alec could not get rid of them, for a long time and at last had to put down the gas and take away his instrument, but even after this when he came back to help the reporter send his despatch there were twenty people in the hall.

Alec lectures tonight at the Academy of Arts and Sciences. He talks of repeating his Salem lecture, but I suppose he told you all this, and about the proposal of two gentlemen who think of taking up his foreign patents, so that after all he may not need the money his father so kindly sent him. Please tell Mr. Bell I am very sorry I forgot to give Alec the draft for his signature, so he must not blame Alec for not returning it, promptly, I hope to see him this afternoon.

I wonder if you have had such lovely spring like weather as we, the only trouble is that I fear the warm days are over for the present.

Library of Congress

Dinner is ready and I must close,

With love to you and Mr. Bell

Believe me Yours Affectionately Mabel G. Hubbard.